

CRITERIA FOR WRITING A

LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Stewardship Management Plans are developed to guide and assist landowners in actively managing their forest and woody vegetation resources. Active management will keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners as well as increase the economic and environmental benefits of these lands.

The management plan should cover a ten year period and be written for all land managed as a unit. All forest resources on a property should be included in the plan and may include blocks of land that are not necessarily contiguous. A stewardship plan may cover more than one landowner's property if the combined properties are to be managed as a unit.

The plan is intended to be a working document; it should be reviewed and amended as necessary at least every five years. The landowner and preparing resource professional should review the plan together and consider dynamic biological conditions, markets, disasters, program practice updates, and objectives.

The plan should be written to guide the landowner and the resource professional in the implementation of practices designed to manage and protect the resources of the forest in a manner compatible with the landowner's objectives. The plan must consider the multi-resource aspects of forest stewardship by addressing fish and wildlife, endangered species, water and soil, wetlands, recreation and aesthetics, cultural resources, and timber. The Natural Heritage Program database will be referenced to determine if any history of endangered species or habitat exists in the planning area.

The plan should be written so that it is easy to read and be understood by the landowner. It should document the landowner objectives, what the resource is on the ground, management decisions made by the landowner and the resource professional to achieve the objectives, guide the landowner as to which practices should be completed each year, and provide a record of completed activities.

Each practice must have a prescription, or project plan, which will provide the specifications and standards for completion of that practice. The project plan should include any restrictions or special requirements, design, timing, species, spacing, placement, materials, and any other information needed to complete the practice, protect the resources, and satisfy the landowner's objectives.

The project plan will not be needed as part of the original forest stewardship management plan, but will be required when applying for Stewardship Incentive Program cost share. When a practice is begun the project plan is added to the landowner's forest stewardship plan as an addendum.

STEWARDSHIP PLAN CONTENTS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA LANDOWNERS

- A) Document title and signature page including:
 - 1) Landowner's name, address and phone number - list multiple landowners if appropriate.
 - 2) Date plan prepared.
 - 3) Plan preparer's name, address, and phone number.
 - 4) Landowner statement of intent and approval with signatures of Landowner, plan preparer, and State Forestry representative.
- E) Landowner's management objectives.
 - 1) Primary objectives.
 - 2) Secondary objectives.
- F) Acreage affected.
- G) Site Description should include but is not necessarily limited to:
 - 1) Location of property and resources.
 - 2) Size.
 - 3) Existing vegetation data: stocking, age, species, site index, condition (insects and diseases).
 - 4) Physical data: soils, capability classification, topography, wetlands, accessibility, fire risk, windbreak suitability group.
 - 5) Features: fences, roads, wells, power lines, etc.
 - 6) Land use history
- H) Describe resource values: their presence, condition, potential, and protection as they relate to the landowner's objectives. Absence of specific values should be noted as such.
 - 1) Fish and wildlife.
 - 2) Endangered species.
 - 3) Water and Soil.
 - 4) Wetlands.
 - 5) Recreation and aesthetics.
 - 6) Forest management and timber harvest.
 - 7) Cultural resources.
- I) Duration of planning period - 10 years with review and updates every 5 years.
- J) Recommended management practices. Describe how the practice satisfies the landowner's objectives, fits the site, and protects or enhances applicable resource values.
 - 1) Short term treatments (1-5 years) and implementation schedule.
 - 2) Future treatments (5+ years) and implementation schedule.
 - 3) Inform of any state laws or regulations applicable to recommended practices.
 - 4) Inform of any permits required to implement recommended practices and how to obtain them.
 - 5) Inform of available cost-share programs that can help with the recommended treatments (details can be placed in appendix).
- K) Implementation record.

- L) Maps must have a legend and may include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - 1) Ownership
 - 2) Area covered by plan
 - 3) Vegetation types
 - 4) Accessibility
 - 5) Location of recommended treatments
 - 6) Soils
- M) Appendix (as applicable)
 - 1) List of definitions for technical terms.
 - 2) Detailed descriptions of cost-share programs.
 - 3) Brochures and fact sheets (FLEP, mountain pine beetle, timber sale agreements, weed control, drip irrigation, etc).
 - 4) Sample contracts.
 - 5) Inventory data.
 - 6) Growth and Yield Calculations.
 - 7) Other
- N) Addenda
 - 1) Project plans for recommended practices (thinning Rx, tree planting designs, harvest Rx, etc.)

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN
For
JOHN AND JANE FORESTAL

100 Spruce St.
Tree City, SD 57000
605-123-4567

Prepared June 26, 1993

Prepared by:

Joe Forester
Trees Forever, Inc.
123 Poplar St.
Tree City, SD 57000
605-765-4321

Having read the attached Forest Stewardship Plan, I agree that the plan reflects my objectives for managing my forest lands, and that the practices described will help me accomplish those objectives. I intend to initiate the practices recommended by this plan, and follow the plan's direction with the understanding that the plan can be modified at any time, with the assistance of a resource professional, to meet changing objectives.

Landowner Approval:

Signature

Date

This plan satisfies the criteria of the South Dakota Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

Prepared by:

SD Division of Resource Conservation and
Forestry Representative:

Signature

Signature

Date

Date

June 10, 2004